

5 **WE CLAIM:**

1 A computer program product for responding to detection of an outbreak of a computer virus on a computer apparatus, said computer program product comprising:

- 10 (i) sequence data defining a sequence containing a plurality of predefined actions to be followed upon detection of said outbreak;
- (ii) outbreak detection code operable to detect said outbreak; and
- (iii) sequence following code operable to follow said sequence of predefined actions.

15 2. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sequence of predefined actions is user defined.

20 3. A computer program product as defined in claim 1, wherein one or more of said predefined actions is performed after receipt of a user input confirming said predefined action.

4. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sequence of predefined actions varies in dependence upon time of day.

25 5. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sequence of predefined actions varies in dependence upon day of week.

30 6. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is reducing virus detection notifications.

7. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is switching from virus quarantining to virus deletion when a computer virus is detected.

35 8. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is increasing scan options that control how thoroughly said computer system is scanned to detect a computer virus.

5 9. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is sending a copy of said detected computer virus to a remote site for analysis.

10 10. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is downloading a latest virus definition file from a remote site.

11. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is downloading a latest virus definition file from a remote site.

15 12. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is performing a complete virus scan of all computer files stored in at least a portion of said computer apparatus.

20 13. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is blocking e-mail attachments.

25 14. A computer program product as claimed in claim 13, wherein said predefined action of blocking e-mail attachments blocks identical attachments appearing in excess of a threshold level.

30 15. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is rendering non-accessible e-mail distribution lists and e-mail address books of e-mail clients coupled to said computer apparatus.

16. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is restarting in administrator mode an e-mail post office coupled to said computer apparatus.

35 17. A computer program product as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of said predefined actions is closing down an e-mail post office coupled to said computer apparatus.

5 18. A method of responding to detection of an outbreak of a computer virus on a computer apparatus, said method comprising:

- (i) defining a sequence containing a plurality of predefined actions to be followed upon detection of said outbreak;
- (ii) detecting said outbreak; and
- 10 (iii) following said sequence of predefined actions.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said sequence of predefined actions is user defined.

20 20. A method as defined in claim 18, wherein one or more of said predefined actions is performed after receipt of a user input confirming said predefined action.

21. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said sequence of predefined actions varies in dependence upon time of day.

22. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said sequence of predefined actions varies in dependence upon day of week.

23. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is
25 reducing virus detection notifications.

24. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is switching from virus quarantining to virus deletion when a computer virus is detected.

30 25. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is increasing scan options that control how thoroughly said computer system is scanned to detect a computer virus.

35 26. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is sending a copy of said detected computer virus to a remote site for analysis.

27. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is downloading a latest virus definition file from a remote site.

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28. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is downloading a latest virus definition file from a remote site.

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29. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is performing a complete virus scan of all computer files stored in at least a portion of said computer apparatus.

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30. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is blocking e-mail attachments.

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31. A method as claimed in claim 30, wherein said predefined action of blocking e-mail attachments blocks identical attachments appearing in excess of a threshold level.

32. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is rendering non-accessible e-mail distribution lists and e-mail address books of e-mail clients coupled to said computer apparatus.

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33. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is restarting in administrator mode an e-mail post office coupled to said computer apparatus.

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34. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein one of said predefined actions is closing down an e-mail post office coupled to said computer apparatus.

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35. Apparatus for responding to detection of an outbreak of a computer virus on a computer apparatus, said computer program product comprising:

sequence data storage storing sequence data defining a sequence containing a plurality of predefined actions to be followed upon detection of said outbreak;
outbreak detection logic operable to detect said outbreak; and
sequence following logic operable to follow said sequence of predefined actions.

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36. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein said sequence of predefined actions is user defined.

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37. A computer program product as defined in claim 35, wherein one or more of said predefined actions is performed after receipt of a user input confirming said predefined action.

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38. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein said sequence of predefined actions varies in dependence upon time of day.

39. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein said sequence of predefined actions varies in dependence upon day of week.

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40. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is reducing virus detection notifications.

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41. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is switching from virus quarantining to virus deletion when a computer virus is detected.

42. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is increasing scan options that control how thoroughly said computer system is scanned to detect a computer virus.

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43. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is sending a copy of said detected computer virus to a remote site for analysis.

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44. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is downloading a latest virus definition file from a remote site.

45. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is downloading a latest virus definition file from a remote site.

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46. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is performing a complete virus scan of all computer files stored in at least a portion of said computer apparatus.

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47. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is blocking e-mail attachments.

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47. A computer program product as claimed in claim 46, wherein said predefined action of blocking e-mail attachments blocks identical attachments appearing in excess of a threshold level.

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49. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is rendering non-accessible e-mail distribution lists and e-mail address books of e-mail clients coupled to said computer apparatus.

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50. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is restarting in administrator mode an e-mail post office coupled to said computer apparatus.

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51. A computer program product as claimed in claim 35, wherein one of said predefined actions is closing down an e-mail post office coupled to said computer apparatus.